[10th October 1928

Appointment of depressed classes as presidents of local boards.

* 493 *Q.*—Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any member of the depressed classes has hitherto been appointed as the president of any local boards in the Presidency ; and

(*b*) if not, whether the Government will be pleased to appoint a few deserving ones ?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The question will be considered if suitable men are available, but there are only six local boards in all, which do not enjoy the right to elect their presidents.

Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*b*) of this question, may I know whether the hon. Minister has at any time made enquiries to ascertain whether members of the depressed classes are available to act as presidents ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" There are two district boards and four taluk boards which have got nominated presidents. As a matter of fact in one of these district boards the presidentship is now being thrown open to election. The Government are considering whether a man could be nominated. They did make an enquiry to ascertain whether a member of the depressed classes was available fit enough to be president of the board."

Grants for second-class roads in Ceded districts.

* 494 *Q.*—Mr. R. Nagan Gowda : In view of the assurance given by him on 24th January 1928, regarding the grants for second-class roads in Ceded districts, will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the matter was placed before the Local Bodies Advisory Committee ;

(*b*) if so, whether the Committee agreed to the increase of grants ; and

(*c*) whether the Government now propose to grant higher amounts for the maintenance of second-class roads in the Ceded districts ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The matter has not yet been placed before the Advisory Committee.

Mr. R. Nagan Gowda :—" May I know how soon the hon. Minister will be able to put the matter before the advisory committee ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I hope to place it at the beginning of next week when the advisory committee meets."

Introduction of Bills to amend the Madras Local Boards Act, etc.

* 495 *Q.*—The Zamindar of Gollapalli : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state when the amendments to the following Acts will be placed before the Council :—

(1) The Madras Local Boards Act.
(2) The Hindu Religious Endowments Act.
(3) The Village Panchayat Act.

A.—In regard to the Bill to amend the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to Question No. 87 at the meeting held on 4th September 1928. The draft of the Village Panchayat Bill is under scrutiny. The Bill to amend the Madras Local Boards Act with the criticisms received thereon from local bodies and individuals consulted is being placed before the Local and Municipal Advisory Committee at a meeting to be held on the 15th October.

Municipal Councils

Introduction of amending Bill to the District Municipalities Act.

* 496 *Q.*—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Government propose to introduce an amending Bill to the District Municipalities Act;

(*b*) whether a draft amending Bill is ready;

(*c*) whether the Government propose to abolish nominations altogether; and

(*d*) whether the Government propose to reserve seats to Mussalmans, Indian Christians and depressed classes in elections?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) A draft Bill has been prepared and referred to municipal councils for an expression of their opinions by the 1st December 1928. The provisions of the Bill will be scrutinized in the light of the remarks received and after the completion of the scrutiny steps will be taken to introduce the Bill.

(*c*) The Government propose to abolish nominations reserving however power to appoint to any municipal council such number of persons as they think fit, not exceeding three to represent the European or Anglo-Indian communities or officers of Government. Persons so appointed will be supernumerary councillors irrespective of and in addition to the strength fixed for the Council.

(*d*) Yes.

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know why officers of Government are necessary in the municipal councils?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I thought the experience gained by such officials in the district would be useful for the proper administration of local bodies."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether they would not be unduly influencing the other members?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"That is asking for information."

Publication of the preliminary list of voters for Saidapet municipality.

* 497 *Q.*—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a memorial from certain voters of the Saidapet municipality, complaining about the Chairman's action in the matter of the publication of the preliminary list of voters for ward IV and seeking Government's intervention in the matter;